

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. A modular network connector assembly comprising:

a first connector housing for housing a first connector half having a first telescoping body portion;

10 a second connector housing having a second telescoping body portion for engaging with the first telescoping body portion, wherein the second connector housing is configured to house a second connector half for axially mating with the first connector half;

an annular collar encircling the telescoping body portions and rotatably held on the second connector housing,

15 a spring inside the collar, the ends of the spring being confined between the second connector housing and the collar so as to yieldingly resist rotation of the collar relative to the second connector housing; and

20 axially opposed tabs disposed on the collar and first connector housing with opposed flaring cam surfaces cooperatively producing rotation of the collar relative to the first connector housing as the first and second connector housing are telescoped to a mated contact position, the cam surfaces guiding the collar tab around the body tab;

wherein the spring yields as the collar is rotated by the cam tabs during contact mating, and the spring then rotates the collar tab to a latching position axially behind the body tab locking the first and second connector housings in mated contact position.

25 2. The modular network connector assembly of claim 1, further comprising a first connector half housed in the first connector housing and a second connector half housed in the second connector housing.

30 3. The modular network connector assembly of claim 2, wherein the first connector half comprises a RJ-45 jack and the second connector half comprises a RJ-45 plug.

4. The modular network connector assembly of claim 3, wherein the plug mates with the jack when the first and second connector housings are in the mated contact position.

5. The modular network connector assembly of claim 3, wherein the second connector housing includes a lever disabling groove for disabling a latching lever on the plug when the plug is inserted in the second connector housing.

5 6. The modular network connector assembly of claim 1, wherein the first connector housing includes a retaining system for releasably retaining the first connector half therein.

7. The modular network connector assembly of claim 6, wherein the retaining system comprises a first groove for engaging a first protrusion on the first connector half.

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8. The modular network connector assembly of claim 7, wherein the retaining system further includes a second groove for engaging a second protrusion on the first connector half.

9. The modular network connector assembly of claim 1, wherein the second connector
15 housing includes a retaining system for releasably retaining the second connector half therein.

10. The modular network connector assembly of claim 9, wherein the retaining system includes a ridge formed in a plug-receiving receptacle of the second connector housing for
20 engaging a groove on the second connector half.

11. The modular network connector assembly of claim 1, wherein the second connector housing includes a threaded portion for engaging a strain relief for a cable.

25 12. The modular network connector assembly of claim 11, further comprising a strain relief attached to the threaded portion of the second connector housing.

13. The modular network connector assembly of claim 1, wherein the second connector housing includes a disabling groove for disabling a latching lever arm on the second
30 connector half.

14. A modular network connector assembly, comprising:
a plug receptacle sized and configured to receive a plug; and

a ridge formed on an inner surface of the receptacle for engaging with a groove in the plug to removably retain the plug in the receptacle.

15. A modular network connector assembly, comprising:

- 5 a jack housing;
- a first cavity formed in the housing for receiving and retaining a jack;
- a second cavity formed in the housing for receiving a telescoping portion of a plug housing; and
- a jack retaining system for releasably retaining a jack in the first cavity.

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16. The modular network connector assembly of claim 15, wherein a plug retained in the plug housing mates with a jack mounted in the first cavity when the telescoping portion of the plug housing is inserted in the second cavity.

15 17. The modular network connector assembly of claim 15, wherein the jack retaining system comprises a first groove formed in the first cavity for engaging a first protrusion on a jack.

18. The modular network connector assembly of claim 17, wherein the jack retaining system further comprises a second groove formed in the first cavity opposite the first groove for engaging a second protrusion on a jack.

19. A modular network connector assembly, comprising:

- 25 a plug housing;
- plug receptacle formed in a first end of the plug housing for receiving and retaining a plug; and
- a threaded portion on the second end of the plug housing for mating with a strain relief.

30 20. The modular network connector assembly of claim 19, further comprising:

- a threaded strain relief mated with the threaded portion of the plug housing.